(c) whether any effort is being made to use high-gride Bailadila iron ore in Visakhapatnam Steel Plant for exports; and

(d) what steps are proposed for continued long-terms profitability for Visakhapatnam Steel Plant ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) Industrial Licence is no longer required for setting up steel plants provided the location is not within 25 kms of a city having a population of more than 10 lakhs as per 1991 census. Government will however provide all possible assistance to any entrepreneur proposing to set up a shore based large steel plant with potential for exports.

(b) The Operations of the various units commissioned at Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP) are still under the process of stabilisation. For the present its efforts are to meet the internal demand of the consumers. VSP has also taken preliminary steps by exporting small quantity of some of their products.

(c) Visakhapatnam Steel Plant is linked to Bailadila Iron Ore Mines of the National Mineral Development Corporation, which produces a high grade iron ore.

(d) With a view to improving the long term financial viability of tht company the restructuring of the capital base of the company is under consideration of the Government. Further the management is taking steps for improving techno-economic norms thereby reducing the cost of production at VSP.

Durgapur steel modern section scheme

1518. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that one Seth and Associate Transport Company, has been working as a Transport handling agency in Durgapur Steel Modern Section Scheme for the last five years;

(b) whether it is also a fact that one SKS Movers Company, the lowest bidder, offered 20 per cent below the rate, which was given by the SAIL to Seth and Associates five years back but further extension has been given to Seth and Associates with previous rates by Director, Commercial ignoring the lowest offer by SKS movers company ; and

(c) whether it is a fact that Director, Commercial proposts to invite fresh tenders with high bid offers to protect his interests ?

THE MINISTER of, STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) to (c) M/s.Seth and Associates were the Material Handling Contractor at AIL's Dtwgapur, Stock-yard since 1-1-1987. The, contract period was to expire on 31-12-1991. Therefore, SAIL had floated a tender in November, 1991, for awarding a fresh contract and the contract period was extended till the time the fresh contract was awarded. The scope :,of .,(he contract for which bids were invited included both minor and major works, with only the prices quoted for the major works usually forming the basis for evaluation of bids. In all the bids received for the fresh contract, prices quoted for the minor works were lower compared to the bids for the old contract and those quoted for the major works were higher. M/s. SKS Movers were not the lowest bidder for the new contract.

There were 8 bids for the new contract. Since seven out of tht eight bidders did not furnish the required documents fulfil the eligibility criteria, the work was retendered and awarded to the lowest bidder on 24-3-1992 to start the work on 1-4-92. Since the work was not taken up by the new contractors on the stipulated date as was urgently required, the contract awarded to them was cancelled and awarded to the second lowest bidder viz. M/s. S. K. Sharma/SKS Movers on 6-4-92.

Steel plant daitari in Orissa

1519. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the "Bhoomi Pooja" for the steel plant at Daitari in

Orissa has been planned before May 20, 1992 when the Panchayat Elections in the State are to take place ;

(b) if so, whether environmental clearance, the collaborator for the projects etc. have been finalised for the proposed steel plant; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) to (c) According to information received from Government of Orissa, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed on 1-11-1991 with Dr. Swraj Paul of the Caparo Group to set up an integrated steel plant near Daitari. The Bhoomi Pooja for the steel plant is scheduled for 10-5-1992. An application has already been made for obtaining environmental clearance. The steel plant will initially have a capacity of 1 million tonnes of steel per year through the Blast Furnace Route.

कोयले का आयात

1520. **डा० जितेन्द्र कुमार जैन** : क्या इस्पात मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि देश में अच्छी किस्म के कोयले की उपलब्धता का अभाव होने के कारण सरकार को उसका आयात करना पड़ता है,

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या यह भी सच है कि गत कुछ वर्षों के दौरान ऐसी किस्म के कोयले के आयात में निरन्तर वृद्धि हुई है,

(ग) यदि हां, तो गत वर्षों के दौरान कोयले का कितनी मात्रा में आयात किया गया और उसका मूल्य क्या था, और

(घ) क्या गत कुछ वर्षों के दौरान देश में अच्छी किस्म के कोयले का उत्पादन करने के लिए प्रयास किए गये हैं, यदि हां तो उनका ब्यौरा क्या है ?

इस्पात मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री सन्तोष मोहन देव) : (क) से (ग) सरकारी क्षेत्र निजी क्षेत्र दोनों के एकीकृत इस्पात संयंत्र धातु कर्मीय कोककर कोयले की कुछ मात्रा, गुणात्मक तथा मात्रात्मक दोनों आधार पर आयात करते हैं। पिछले तीन वर्षों में स्टील अथारिटी आफ इंडिया लि० (सेल), राष्ट्रीय इस्पात निगम लि०, (आर०आई० एन०एल०) का विशाखापट्टणम इस्पात संयंत्र तथा टाटा आयरन एण्ड स्टील (टिस्को) द्वारा किए गए आयात का ब्यौरा निम्नानुसार है :—

	मात्रा (दस लाख टन)	अनुमानित लागत (लागत और भाड़ा) (करोड़ रुपये)
(1)	(2)	(3)
"सेल"		
1988-89	3.740	329.5
1989-90	3.748	426.8
1990-91	4.493	543.8
1991-92	4.255	672.5
विशाखापट्टणम इस्पात संयंत्र (राष्ट्रीय इस्पात निगम लिमिटेड)		
1989-90	0.285	39.35
1990-91	0.508	78.39
1991-92 (अक्तूबर, 91 तक)	0.539	80.70
"टिस्को"		
1988-89	0.699	57.85
1989-90	0.653	67.49
1990-91	0.722	82.85
1991-92	0.843	उपलब्ध नहीं (लागत और भाड़ा 64.30 अमरीकी डालर प्रति टन)

(घ) कोयला मंत्रालय/कोल इंडिया लिमिटेड ने इस्पात संयंत्रों के उपयोग में आने वाले धातु